



N.O.W. News

Vol. 38 No. 3

Fall 2000



I Promise...

The Coin Shows
this Fall will be
GREAT!



Numismatists of Wisconsin

is incorporated in the state of Wisconsin as a non-stock, non-profit tax exempt corporation.

Your contributions to NOW are tax deductible

The objective of Numismatists of Wisconsin is to encourage and promote interest in numismatics, to cultivate friendly relations between Wisconsin coin collectors and Wisconsin coin clubs, and to encourage and assist new numismatic hobbyists. All resources of the organization shall be used to further these objectives.

Dues are \$5 per year and entitles participants to NOW News, this quarterly publication. Among the services offered are coin authentication, a Speaker's Bureau, show calendar coordination and guidelines to assist coin clubs hosting the annual NOW convention.

Fall 2000



SEPTEMBER

Featured in Each Issue

President's Message	2
Secretary's Musings	4
Coin Club News	6-7
What's New?	8-10
BookNook	12
Advertisers	5, 22
NOW Application /Advertising Info	23
NOW Officers and Contacts	24
Show Calendar	25-26

Fall Tidbits

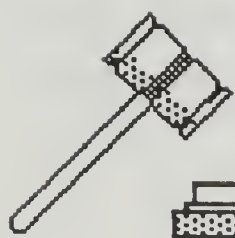
Attendance Report	3
Call for Nominations	4
In Memory - Dr. E.V. Smith	7
How Should Wisconsin Be Represented On Our Special Coin?	2
Bill Introduced to Give Equal Tax Treatment to Bullion Coins and Bars	11
Electronic Banking, Is It For You?	11
Financial Tables Expanded in Newspapers	13
Something to Think About	20

Articles

Nutmeg Wars or A Tale of Two Islands (Leon Saryan)	14-16
Ye Old West Ain't What It Use To Be (Phyllis Calkins)	16-20
Gimbel Brothers, A Milwaukee Legend (Tom Casper)	21

Deadline

News for the next issue should be sent to the Editor by November 1st.



President's Message

by Bill Brandimore

The grains of summer are running through the hour glass awfully quick. As you read this, we might even have had a frost up in Wausau. Great news for Wisconsin numismatists, however, Wisconsin's own (we'll never give them up to Florida... they're only down there getting R&R) -- John Wilson was named Vice President of the American Numismatic Association Board of Governors at the big ANA convention in Philadelphia. The appointment was necessitated by the resignation of Helen Carmody-Lebo for health reasons. We wish Helen good health and John Wilson success.

John has been a tireless worker for the hobby, NOW, Central States and the ANA. We're proud of you, John. Keep on working... we appreciate it.

I'll be attending the Central States Fall Show (I'm on the Board of Governors) in Harvey, IL September 7-9. That's not too far a sojourn for Wisconsinites and there is always a lot of action at a Central States show.

We're also looking at our NOW convention being held in conjunction with the Baraboo show next year. Dates are up in the air as the club works out a better date to put all the pieces together -- hotel, crowd appeal and a chance to pull in a few vacationers as well. More on that as it is formalized.

We continue to print membership applications in our newsletter. Sign up a friend. At \$5 we're the best buy in numismatics. A great magazine chocked full of articles and a

chance to get together with some of the friendliest and most helpful collectors around.

If you haven't been to a NOW show yet... come on down, as they used to say on the old TV Game Show. Laboring alone in the hobby as a solitary collector is just that--laboring. Let some light in, get active with your local club, join the ANA, Central States, check out the GREAT magazines and attend some of the educational forums. Most of all, get involved with other collectors. **WE** are all appreciative of each other's treasures and are interested in learning. Adult "Show & Tell" -- it's wonderful... ask me about paper money.

Finally, write an article for our newsletter. We'll all be richer.

How Should Wisconsin Be Represented on Our Special Coin?

The Wisconsin Quarter has been (and will continue to be) a topic of discussion at our NOW Board meetings. As the state numismatic organization we, hopefully, will be able to offer a little input into the design of the quarter for Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin State Journal recently published the following which gives a little more insight into this project:

"...In a few years it will be Wisconsin's turn to decide what image we want Americans to have of our state quarter. A block of cheese, a Harley motorcycle or maybe the dairy farm. U.S. Mint spokeswoman, Jennifer Arnold, cautioned that we probably

continued on p. 11



ATTENDANCE REPORT

The attendance record of the people who serve on the Board demonstrates their commitment to NOW. They volunteer their time and drive many miles to attend the Board meetings.

P = Present; A = Absent; A* Absent with Prior Notice

**** terms expire at next year's NOW Annual Meeting.**

Board Meetings	3/7/99	3/28/99	10/17/99	4/2/00	5/20/00
Bill Brandimore (President)	P	P	P	P	P
Rollie Finner (Vice President)	P	A	P	P	P
Ron Calkins (Secretary/Treasurer)	P	P	P	P	P
Phyllis Calkins (Editor)	P	P	P	P	P
Lee Hartz (Past President)	P	P	P	A*	P
Gene Johnson (Historian)	A	P	P	P	P
Ruth Phillips (Advertising)	P	P	P	P	P
Board of Governors					
** Ron Calkins	P	P	P	P	P
** Leon Saryan (appointed 5/20/00)					P
** Mike Schiller	P	A*	P	A	P
** Bob VanRyzin	P	A	A	A*	A
Fred Borgman	P	P	P	P	P
Jim Jach	A*	P	P	P	P
Randy Miller	A	P	A*	P	A*
Mike Tramte	A*	A*	P	A	P
Tom Casper	P	P	P	P	P
Kevin Doyle	P	P	A	P	P
Myles Fenske (appointed 3/28/99)		P	P	P	P
Thad Streeter	P	P	P	P	P

Call for Nominations

In accordance with Article I, Section 1, of the NOW Bylaws, a call for nominations of officers shall be made in the fall issue of NOW News. Nominations must be made in writing by a regular or life member of NOW.

Candidates must be paid-up members and must have been a member of NOW for a minimum of 1 year. No member may nominate themselves.

Board of Governors whose terms expire are:

Ron Calkins

Leon Saryan (appointed to remainder of Dick Anderson's term)

Mike Schiller

Robert VanRyzin

Every member should exercise this key franchise of membership. Grass roots involvement in our organization means your representatives will implement YOUR ideas.

The candidate(s) should have the interest and desire to participate in and attend the 2 or 3 Board meetings which are held each year.

Nominations close September 30th

Send your nominations to:

Ron Calkins, NOW Secretary/Treasurer
P.O. Box 155, Mazomanie, WI 53560.

Attention Board Members

A Board meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 22nd at Green Bay. (see show calendar for location of Nicolet Coin Show). Please put this date on your calendar -- more information will be sent at a later date.



Secretary's Musings

by Ron Calkins

Good News!

After several months of paperwork and red tape, the IRS notified us that we have been granted a 501 3(c) Non-Profit Status. This means that we will no longer have to pay taxes on profits made at NOW shows and your donations to NOW (not dues) are tax deductible.

Time to Consider Board Nominations

Please carefully consider who would make a good candidate to the Board. We have 4 positions to fill for 3-year terms. Every year we receive nominations for people who are not even members of NOW. If you have someone in mind, talk with them first to make sure they have been a member for at least 1 year, ask if they're interested in running for the Board, and if they are willing to attend 2 or 3 meetings a year.

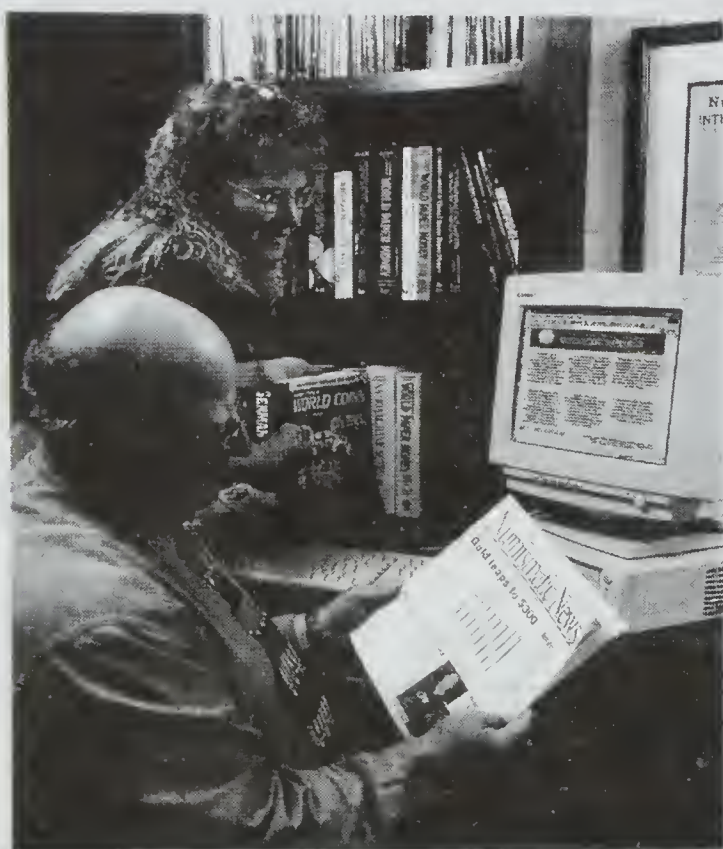
Board Meetings

An early spring meeting is usually held in the area of the host city to finalize plans before the annual NOW show.

It's sometimes difficult to find the best time and place to hold meetings. We've occasionally held them during coin shows, and realize dealers may need to man their tables during some meetings, and we've also had luncheon meetings at a centrally-located restaurant.

Searching For Reliable Numismatic Information?

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Coin Club News

Fishbowl Wooden Nickel Coin Club

The annual coin show of the FWN Coin Club was held August 5th at the Community Center in Siren, Wisconsin. The show is held each year in conjunction with a street sale celebration that brings large groups of tourists to the craft show in the park as well as the outdoor merchants sales.

The Fishbowl Wooden Nickel Coin Club is the only coin club operating in northwestern Wisconsin, near the Minnesota border, evolving from the Arrowhead Coin Club that was founded in 1966. Club spokesman, Gary Schauls, said the August meeting was their club's picnic, featuring a potluck with baked chicken, salads, and desserts. The club's final meeting of the year will be held in October, which amounts to an early Christmas party for members. At this meeting, the club's official membership wooden nickel (numbered) were awarded to all the paid-up members. Club officers are:

President:	Carl Agerbeck
Vice President	John Biver
Secretary	Pat Israel
Treasurer	Don Israel

Thanks to Rollie Finner, Gene Johnson, William Rabe and Mike Hanninen for submitting club news.

Wisconsin Valley Coin Club

Bluegill Park in West Wausau was the site of the Wisconsin Valley Coin Club's 2000 picnic last July. The weather was perfect; the crowd of 25 was noisy and social, and the food (as usual) was exceptional (brats, burgers, chicken breasts, hotdogs plus potluck).

In a 40-year evolution, the club's picnics have slowed in tempo, as two generations of member/children have grown up to the games, food and fun that has marked this club's tradition.

As the WVCC has aged, members now only remember the balloon races, nail pounding, shoe kicking contests, and children's penny hunts. There are still some children, but the food prepared by cookout expert, Thad Streeter, is now the featured event, and those kids can sure eat!

Thad, a NOW Governor, is employed by the International Grocers Assoc. as a public relations man, as well as store manager, and is often featured on TV in central Wisconsin. Drawings were held, with silver coins given as prizes.

Madison Coin Club Holds Annual Picnic

On August 14th, members and families attended an indoor picnic in the Zimbrick Buick meeting room. They enjoyed an evening of numismatic socializing, good food (with no bugs or bad weather to worry about) and following dinner, a high-stakes bingo game kept everyone entertained.

Bob Kraft volunteered to speak to the Edgerton Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution on United States coins.

The Waukesha Coin Club

commissioned an elongated cent to celebrate their 31st annual coin show, which was held last Spring. A large "2000" is the central design of the elongated coin.

The elongated cent is the 10th in a series. Previous years' elongates render the club's logo as its central design. Anyone interested in purchasing samples of the elongated cents should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with 50¢ per coin to:

Waukesha Coin Club
1912 Laura Lane
Waukesha, WI 53186-2808

* * * * *

The Indian Hill Coin Club has issued an elongated wooden nickel and a wooden nickel "wampum" for its 2000 coin show. The "wampum" will be on sale at their show for 50¢ each and can be used for \$1 in trade during the show or at any of their club meetings. The show will be held Sunday, October 29, 2000 at American Legion Post 771 in Gurnee, Illinois.

Both wooden nickels are available for \$1 plus a self-addressed stamped envelope. To order, contact, Mike Hanninen, 2400 Horeb Avenue, Zion, IL 60099.

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The Tomah Coin Club recently notified us that they still are an active coin club, although they have only 11 members. Anyone interested in joining their group should contact William Rabe, Tomah Coin Club Treasurer, 1805 Goodland Avenue, Tomah, WI 54660.



C. Keith Edison receives plaque from Del Plank and Tom Keller of Lions Clubs International Foundation District 27.

NOW Member Receives Award

C. Keith Edison, of Independence, was named a "Melvin Jones Fellow" by Lions Clubs International Foundation in recognition of his commitment to serving the world community. With this prestigious honor, he became part of a growing network of individuals who are committed to improving the quality of life for people locally and in communities around the world.

Keith (#1407) joined NOW in 1979 and is a former advertiser in NOW News for Wisconsin National Currency.

With Sympathy

Dr. E.V. Smith (NOW member #1162) died on January 25th, at the age of 91. He joined NOW in 1985 and was a collector, dealer and occasional advertiser in NOW News. His interests included coins, stamps, space covers, and autographs.



Rulau Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

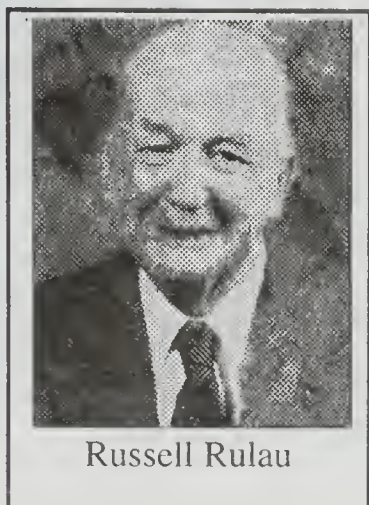
Krause Publications

Russell Rulau, a Krause numismatic author and editor of *World Coin News* from 1974 to 1984, has been chosen as this year's recipient of the American Numismatic Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award was presented during the ANA convention held last August in Philadelphia. Previous recipients with strong Krause affiliations include Chet Krause, Clifford Mishler, Ed Rochette and Eric Newman.

Rulau is one of the top token and medal authorities in the world. His books have won 8 awards from the Token and Medal Society as well as 5 awards from the Numismatic Literary Guild. He is also a recipient of the Clemy, the Guild's highest honor, and the ANA Medal of Merit. In 1999, Rulau was named a fellow of the American Numismatic Society.

In 1974 Russell joined NOW as member #1160,



Russell Rulau

Young Numismatists Are Encouraged to Enter Silver Dollar Essay Contest

The National Silver Dollar Roundtable, an organization of U.S. silver dollar dealers and collectors has announced a Silver Dollar Essay Contest, which is open to all young numismatists, ages 11 through 17.

From its beginning in 1982, the NSDR has encouraged young people to enjoy the excitement, lore and history of U.S. silver dollars. To promote that goal, the NSDR is offering prizes for the best essays about any subject relating to U.S. dollars, from the first silver dollar minted in 1794 to the just-released Sacagawea dollar. The top 3 winning essays will receive U.S. government savings bonds in amounts of \$500 for 1st place; \$200 for 2nd place and \$100 for 3rd.

Mike Faraone, President of the NSDR has stated that all entries should be sent to the NSDR Journal Editor, 4150 Tuller Road, Suite 210, Dublin, OH 43017, and must be postmarked prior to November 1, 2000. The essay should not exceed 5 pages.

Each essay will be read by at least 2 members of the NSDR Board of Governors and finalists will be announced at the NSDR Banquet in Orlando in January 2001. The 3 winning essays will be published in the NSDR Quarterly Journal.

submitted by
Florence Schook





One of the 8,000 silver dollars made between 1878 and 1891 from the Comstock Lode.

Old West Coins Emerge

Associated Press

After sitting in a bank vault for 26 years, more than 8,000

silver dollars made in the Old West were brought to light last spring.

The Littleton Coin Company bought 8,261 dollar coins from the Dalton Gold and Silver Exchange in Georgia for nearly \$900,000. The silver dollars were made in Carson City, Nevada between 1878 and 1891.

It's like holding the Old West in your hands. Littleton's purchase is the largest known hoard of these coins since the U.S. Treasury emptied its vaults several decades ago. The coins were made from the famous Comstock Lode that consisted of several large veins of silver and gold in Nevada discovered in 1856. Most of the Carson City coins were placed in circulation after they were made, but the U.S. Treasury found 3 million of the silver dollars in its vaults in 1964.

A bill proposed in 1966 to donate the Carson City dollars to the American Cancer Society for fund-raising met with opposition. Instead, the government conducted public sales of its remaining silver dollars between 1972 and 1980. The Carson City dollars range in price from \$100 to \$2,000. The

most expensive of the load are those minted in 1879. It's the romance of the story that makes these coins so special. The first time in 26 years that these coins were shown in public was at the Central States Show held in Milwaukee last spring.

* * * * *

News From the U.S. Mint

The U.S. Mint began selling the 2000 uncirculated coin sets by mail and online. This is the first uncirculated set of U.S. legal tender offered by the Mint in the new millennium. Check out their website at www.usmint.gov.

The U.S. Mint Receives Commemorative Coin Designs

The Mint has received 105 design concepts for the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center Commemorative Coins, to be released next January. All of the designs, including some submitted by sculptors and engravers who work for the Mint, depict the first convening of Congress in the Capitol in 1800.

The designs will be reviewed by a citizen advisory committee. The treasury secretary will select the winning design in consultation with the U.S. Capitol Preservation Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts.

Part of the revenue from sales of the dollar and half-dollar coins will go to the new Capitol Visitor Center, which will provide an educational experience for the 5 million or so people a year who visit the historic building.

* * * * *

The State Quarter Program



Georgia

The Georgia quarter was the 4th coin in the 50 State Quarters program. It features the state's famous fruit on the

reverse along with an outline of Georgia, a border of live oak springs, and a banner with the state motto "Wisdom, Justice, Moderation."

Connecticut

The Connecticut quarter, the last 50 State Quarters Program coin issued in 1999, features "The Charter Oak"; an integral part of



Connecticut's heritage and existence. If not for the famed "Charter Oak", Connecticut (and this country in general) might be a very different place than it is today.

On the night of October 31, 1687, Connecticut's Charter was put to a test. A British representative for King James I, challenged Connecticut's government structure and demanded its surrender. In the middle of the heated discussion, with the Charter on the table between the opposing parties, the candles were mysteriously snuffed out, darkening the room. When

visibility was reestablished, the Connecticut Charter had vanished. Heroic Captain Joseph Wadsworth saved the Charter from the hands of the British and concealed it in the safest place he could find -- in a majestic white oak. This famous tree, "The Charter Oak" finally fell during a great storm on August 21, 1856.

* * * *

Bill to Give Equal Tax Treatment to Bullion Coins and Bars Introduced in House

The Gold Institute

H.R. 4170 was introduced by the House of Representatives lawmakers which would grant the same capital gains treatment to gold, silver and platinum bullion coins and bars that are enjoyed by other investments.

Bullion coins are legal tender coins issued by the government mint and are distinct from coins prized by collectors. Bullion coins bear a face value that is largely symbolic. Its true value depends on the metal content and day-to-day price changing for the metal. Bullion bars and coins provides the investor with an economical way to make precious metals investments for diversification and portfolio protection purposes, and should be treated as any other investment. This legislation would give precious metals investors the same advantages now given to investors in stocks and bonds.

Some popular bullion coins include the American Eagle, the Australian Kangaroo Nugget, the Canadian Maple Leaf and the South African Krugerrand. The American Eagle bullion coins are one of the world's leading bullion investment coins. Similar legislation is expected to be introduced in the U.S. Senate.

Electronic Banking... Is It For You?

by Phyllis Calkins

Paying bills electronically should be a cinch. Just sign up with your bank or another on-line account and you can make payments or set up automatic payments that are deducted from your checking account.

In a recent study conducted by Gartner Group, an internet consulting firm, they found that at the end of 1999, only 3 million households were paying bills on line. Why so few? **Expense**, not security, was the major reason. The average monthly service charge was \$6 to \$12.95. Most survey respondents felt that paying bills on line should be free.

Even our small home-town bank offers electronic banking. but I'm one of those skeptics who prefers to write my own checks, lick my own stamps and not let anyone automatically take my money from my checking account.

A friend ran into another problem which took several months to straighten out. She paid a utility bill electronically, but the payment wasn't credited to her account. The bank assured her payment had been made and the Utility company kept bugging her about her outstanding balance. The problem was the bank made one transaction for **all** of the Utility customers -- not by individuals, thus causing the delay in solving the problem. Needless to say, she was not a happy customer! The study predicts that by 2002, 15 million households will be paying their bills on the net.



How Should Wisconsin be Represented on Our Special Coin?

(continued from page 2)

wouldn't want to put a beer mug on the coin. The Mint coins more than a billion quarters for each state during a 10-week span. It has halted production of the traditional eagle backed coin until it finishes stamping the state quarters in 2008.

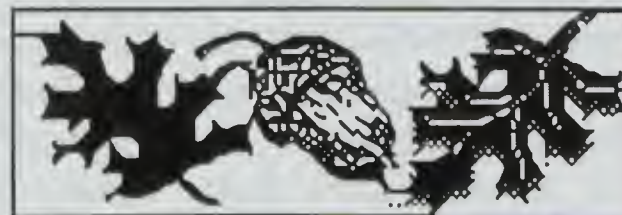
Wisconsin's turn will be in the fall of 2004. That seems like a long way off, however, plans for the design should begin soon. Governor Tommy Thompson plans to start the process around the beginning of 2001 spokesman, Kevin Keane, said. "It's a way to literally mint Wisconsin" Keane said, putting a memento of the state "into the pockets of every American."

The Governor has not yet begun planning how we will come up with the design, let alone what the design may be.

Some states solicit drawings from the public; others form design committees. States are expected to submit 3 to 5 potential designs 18 months before the coin is minted.

The quarters can have anything on them that represents the state that's symbolic. The design also has to be something that can easily be engraved".

If you have any unique ideas or suggestions, please contact President, Bill Brandimore.





Book Nook

Military Vehicles Joins Krause Publications

Krause Publications, the world's largest publisher of numismatic and other hobby-related books and periodicals, expanded its line of products for vehicle enthusiasts on June 2nd with the purchase of "Military Vehicles" magazine from SBI Inc. of Morristown, NJ.

Each issue includes how-to restoration articles, profiles of vintage and contemporary vehicles, photos of historic military vehicles, book reviews, events listings, and extensive display and classified advertising sections.

Founder, Chet Krause, has his own extensive collection of military vehicles. The first issue will be the September/October 2000 issue. David Ahl is publisher and editor of this new publication.

* * * * *

Numismatics Publications Available from Durst

Several unusual numismatic books are now available to collectors...

- Price's Coins of the Macedonians, \$15.
- Jenkin's Coins of Greek Sicily; \$15.
- Sasanian Numismatics, by Gobl; \$30.

A full listing and Information is available from Sanford Durst, (516) 766-4444 or FAX 516-766-4520.

* * * * *

Complete Guide to Latin American Tokens Now Available in Fully Updated Edition

Token collectors can now get a book that earned the Token and Medal Society's gold medal for cataloging -- "Latin American Tokens" is a revised and expanded edition. Collectors seeking information about the tokens issued by haciendas, mines, mills and docks from Mexico's northern border to the tip of South America will find it in this updated catalog.

Information is included on tokens from 1700 to 1920 in Mexico, Central America and South America and 1700 to 1960 in the West Indies. More than 2,000 photos accompany the listings, offering collectors a valuable resource for token identification.

This book identifies and gives token values and reveals the historical setting for their existence. Author, Russell Rulau, is one of the top token and medal authorities in the world.

This 480-page soft-covered book can be ordered from Krause Publications for \$37.95 + shipping & handling... call 1-800-258-0929.



Financial Tables Expanded in Newspapers

The Wisconsin State Journal recently improved their stock and mutual fund tables. For the benefit of readers who track stocks, other Wisconsin newspapers will also be changing their format, if they haven't already done so.

In addition to offering a more readable typeface, the tables include additional listings to reflect the expanding universe of stocks and mutual funds and to accommodate a growing number of reader requests.

The prices are now listed in dollars and cents rather than fractions. Prices are rounded to the nearest cent, so a stock that closed at \$20 $\frac{1}{8}$, or \$20.125, will appear as \$20.13.

Use of the fraction dates to the 17th century, when many currencies circulated in the American colonies and their values fluctuated.

One of the more widely available and stable currencies was the Spanish milled dollar, or piece of eight, which could be cut with a hammer and chisel into as many as eight pieces.

Since many early stock traders were merchants, it was natural for them to trade stocks in eighths of dollars, according to the New York Stock Exchange. The system lasted until 1997, when the NYSE began pricing stocks in even smaller increments as a step toward decimalization.

Although some markets have resisted the move, the Securities and Exchange Commission has set April 9, 2001 as the deadline for major U.S. stock markets to convert pricing of stocks and options from

fractions to decimals. Some NYSE and American Stock Exchange issues began trading in decimals on August 28th.

Beyond the switch to decimals and additional lists, a new feature highlights the results of after hours trading. The after-hours table includes the 100 most actively traded stocks, providing a look at stock price swings after the regular markets close.

A final change was that Friday market activity is no longer published on Saturdays. Instead, it appears in a 4-page report on Sundays.

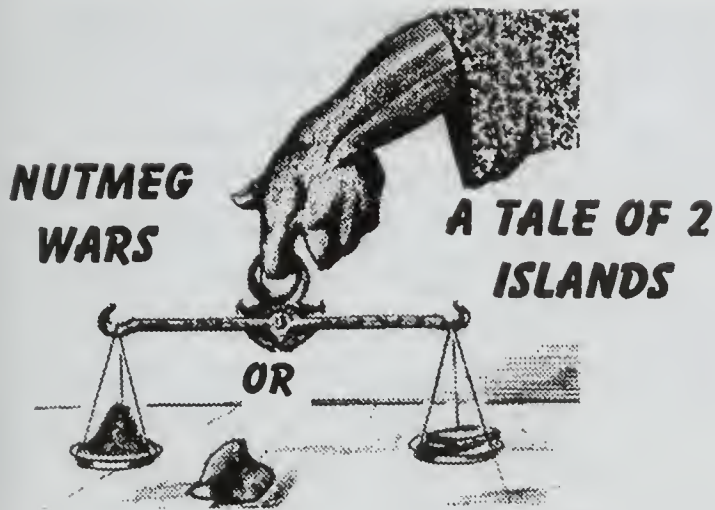
The Sunday listings, which also will appear in decimal form, will include weekly change data as well as Friday's closing price. Investors interested in specific Wisconsin stocks and mutual funds are able to turn to separate tables for additional data.

Readers in the Madison area who wish to follow a stock or mutual fund that doesn't appear in the State Journal tables may request the addition by calling Business Editor, Jennifer Sereno at 608-252-6155 or E-mail to: sereno@madison.com.

source: Wisconsin State Journal

Throughout History Spices Have Been Valuable Commodities

Salt was one of the oldest forms of money in the world. In 1667, sugar was the principal currency in the British West Indies and cloves, cocoa and pepper were also highly valued spices. Nutmeg is another commodity that was highly valued and Leon Saryan tells its interesting story in the next article.



by Leon Saryan #1704

New Yorkers would speak Dutch today instead of English if it weren't for the 17th century craze for nutmeg. That is essentially the conclusion of Giles Milton, author of the new book *"Nathaniel's Nutmeg"* and reviewer, Andrew Roberts, from whose article "The Spice That Took Manhattan" (The Wall Street Journal, May 21, 1999 p. W7), this fascinating historically accurate tale has been extracted.

Nutmeg, a small yellow fruit, has been available in Europe since the Middle Ages, but for centuries it was fantastically scarce. Medieval physicians ascribed all sorts of dubious medicinal properties to it, from curing chesty coughs and trapped wind all the way up to protecting against the bubonic plague and "the sweating sickness."

Because nutmeg only grew in a tiny East Indian archipelago called Banda, 1600 miles east of Jakarta, Indonesia, in an area then considered to be at the furthest edge of the world. It was so rare and was almost literally worth its weight in gold. It became a status symbol for Europe's super-rich, a treasured gift between potentates. Until 1511, the merchant of Venice held the nutmeg monopoly, which they protected jealously and used to impose profit margins

of no less than 10,000%. Of all the rare spices of the East, nutmeg was king. A bag of it would allow a man to buy a country estate and retire.

In 1511, Portuguese traders reached the Banda Islands, including Run, an island only 2 miles long and 1 mile wide that grew virtually nothing but nutmegs. They broke the Venetian monopoly and immediately attempted to create one of their own. Over the next century the Dutch also muscled in and almost succeeded in cornering the world nutmeg market. The expeditions were extremely dangerous; they required sailing around the southern tip of Africa, which all sailors dreaded, then up the African and Indian coasts to Sumatra, Java and Run. Hazardous though these missions were, with mutiny, scurvy, piracy, and shipwreck ever-present threats, those sailors who returned with a hold full of nutmegs were set for life.

In order to break the Dutch stranglehold on the nutmeg market, Queen Elizabeth I of England chartered the Honourable East India Company on New Year's Day 1600, to which Holland responded by chartering the Dutch East India Company two years later. The story of the rivalry between these two companies is always unscrupulous, occasionally ruthless, and often murderous and bloody. The idea of healthy competition, a sort of 17th century anti-trust environment that might have assured a regular supply of nutmeg to everyone's benefit, never seems to have occurred to either company, as they battled it out for control of the nutmeg trade over the next two-thirds of a century.

What did occur to them was to try to find a less onerous route to the Banda Islands. Many of those who attempted a passage

across Asia perished in the attempt. The revolutionary idea of sailing westward led the Dutch-financed Englishman Henry Hudson, in his ship *Half Moon* to drop anchor in (what would become) New York harbor in September 1609. He was more than 4000 miles from his true destination, but continuing upstream he arrived at "that side of the river that is called Manna-hata." (Another possible derivation comes from the Indian word "manahactanienk" meaning "the island of general drunkenness.") Hudson's discovery of Manhattan was deplored by his own countrymen, who assumed that he had indeed hit upon the fast route to Run, and he was denounced in England as a traitor. Nevertheless, New Netherlands had been founded and decades later Fort Amsterdam was built.

Meanwhile, on Christmas Day 1616, a British merchant-adventurer named Nathaniel Courthope, under direct orders from Queen Elizabeth's successor James I, succeeded in landing at Run. He persuaded the islanders to enter into a formal alliance and sought thereby to monopolize the island's nutmeg production. Unlike the Dutch, who were loathed by the native population for their viciousness and overbearing demands, Courthope was welcomed because the English "hath done no hurt to any of our religion, nor seeketh to overthrow our lawe." With only 30 Englishmen and 6 cannons, Courthope proceeded to fortify Run, despite the fact that it had no natural water and precious little to eat besides the ubiquitous nutmegs.

In a heroic siege that lasted 1540 days, Courthope's half-starved men and the loyal native population held out against a Dutch force, sometimes 100 times their number. It was an epic tale that at long last had

earned Courthope an honored place in English history. In the end, the Dutch killed Courthope (although his body was never discovered) and mercilessly crushed Run's 4-year resistance. The defeat rankled in England, and Run was briefly recaptured in 1665. By then a full-scale Anglo-Dutch colonial war had also led to the surrender of Fort Amsterdam by its Dutch governor, Peter Stuyvesant, on September 8, 1664. After signing away the Dutch rights to Manhattan, Stuyvesant and his small band left the fort "drums beating and colours flying."

The political fate of the two islands, Run and Manhattan, had been running in tandem for over half a century. A deal was struck three years later in 1667 at the peace negotiations in Breda. It was an irony of history that it was agreed that the Dutch could keep Run, in return for which the English retained Manhattan. Neither side was particularly happy with the outcome, and at the time it was thought that Holland had gotten the better end of the deal. However, verdant Manhattan was (at that time), after all, no nutmegs grew there.

Another consequence of the Treaty of Breda was that the English East Indian Company, no longer able to trade in the Spice Islands, turned its attention to its nascent operation in Calcutta. By the late 17th century the company had set into motion the process by which much of the Indian subcontinent became a Crown possession. As for Run a brief British occupation during the Napoleonic Wars led to the successful transplant of nutmeg to the soils of Malaya, Singapore, and Ceylon, where it was soon produced more cheaply than in the Banda Islands. Today, a jar of nutmeg, enough to last a year or more, can be purchased for \$3

in the local supermarket. Run has now returned to utter obscurity. Author Giles Milton visited the island in 1997 and noted that the air smelled sweetly of nutmegs. None of the inhabitants were aware that their island was once considered a good swap for what is now the world's richest and most powerful city, and all for the sake of a little nutmeg

* * * * *



Ye Old West Ain't What It Used to Be...

by Phyllis Calkins #250

After almost 30 years,
we decided to vacation
in the Black Hills of

South Dakota again and discovered lots of changes had taken place. Our first stop was Mitchell SD, arriving early evening just in time to visit the world's only "Corn Palace" and learn a little of its history...

In 1805, Lewis & Clark traveled through the northern plains and wrote in their journals that no man could ever make a living farming and that the area was the Great American Desert, suitable only for buffalo. Wanting to prove Lewis and Clark wrong, as well as to entice settlers to the area, the Corn Belt Real Estate Association built the "Corn Belt Exposition" in 1892. Early settlers displayed the fruits of their harvest on the building's exterior to prove the fertility of the Dakota soil.

The second Corn Palace was built in 1905, and the 3rd (and present) building was completed at its present location in 1921.

Each year the Corn Palace is redecorated

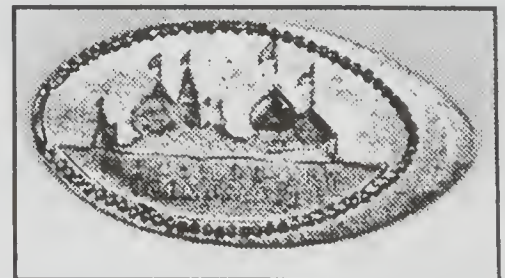
with a new theme selected by the Corn Palace Committee and artist, Cal Schultz. Exceptions to this tradition occurred during the Depression, World War I and II era and Mitchell's Centennial year.

The decorative materials are all native corn, grasses and grains of South Dakota. Approximately 20 local residents are hired and the redecorating process begins in early summer when all the grasses and grains are removed from the building and replaced in new geometric designs. 3,000 bushels of milo, rye, oat heads and sour dock are tied into bundles and nailed to the building.

In late summer, when the corn matures, the mural pictures are replaced. The new scenes are drawn on black roofing paper and marked as to which of the 11 different colors of corn goes where. (Think of it as a very large corn-by-number project) The roofing paper is then tacked into place and each ear of corn is literally nailed in its designated space. About 275,000 ears of corn are sawed in half and nailed flat-side to the building. It takes approximately 3 months to redecorate the Corn Palace at a cost of over \$100,000 each year.

Inside the Palace, vendors sell their arts & crafts to the 400,000+ people who visit each year.

Tourists are given an opportunity to get their very own souvenir



rolled penny by merely inserting 2 quarters and a penny into one of their conveniently-located machines, selecting 1 of several Corn Palace designs, and rotating the handle until the rolled coin pops out.

On a hot summer day, a glass of ice water can be the summit of one's desire, but whoever heard of making a fortune of it? Ted and Dorothy Hustead did just that! The infamous "Wall Drug" in Wall, South Dakota was a "must" stop for us. The temperature was a hot 103 degrees and the ice water was a refreshing treat as we moseyed around and learned the story behind the drug store.

Back in 1931, Ted and Dorothy Hustead bought a little Drug Store on a shoestring in Wall, SD (population 700). Ted was just out of the University of Nebraska School of Pharmacy and with high hopes, they moved in and went to work, then smacked into the Depression.

One stifling day in the summer of 1936, Dorothy thought about the tourists who motored through Wall by the hundreds bound for the Black Hills and points west. If only there were some way to persuade them to stop. Suddenly she had a great idea! Ted made signs and posted them along the highway... *"Free Ice Water at Wall Drug Store."* People have been giving away ice water for years, but none ever thought of advertising the fact. To tourists, the Hustead's sign provided first a hearty laugh and then a welcomed invitation.

Today, Wall Drug is still dispensing free ice water -- sometimes 20,000 glasses a day. Their facilities have been greatly expanded and modernized. A giant T-Rex dinosaur is a big attraction for the young and old, along with a life-size animated Cowboy Orchestra and the musical Chuck Wagon Quartet, gift shops and full-sized statues of buffalo, horses, gorillas and other animals occupy their back yard.



Wall Drug Store as it was in 1931.

In talking with "old timers" from the area, they seemed to recall that tokens were used at Wall Drug "Good for a cup of coffee." We searched antique stores, trading posts and junk shops, but were only able to find the modern token (shown below) which everyone can get for 50¢ from the Wall Drug souvenir token machines.



Token from Wall Drug Store

The "Loop" drive thru the Badlands is scenic and interesting, but no longer is free -- Considered bad and worthless land in the 1800's by French fur traders and the Sioux Indians living in the area, the name "Badlands" seemed the best description for this inhospitable area.

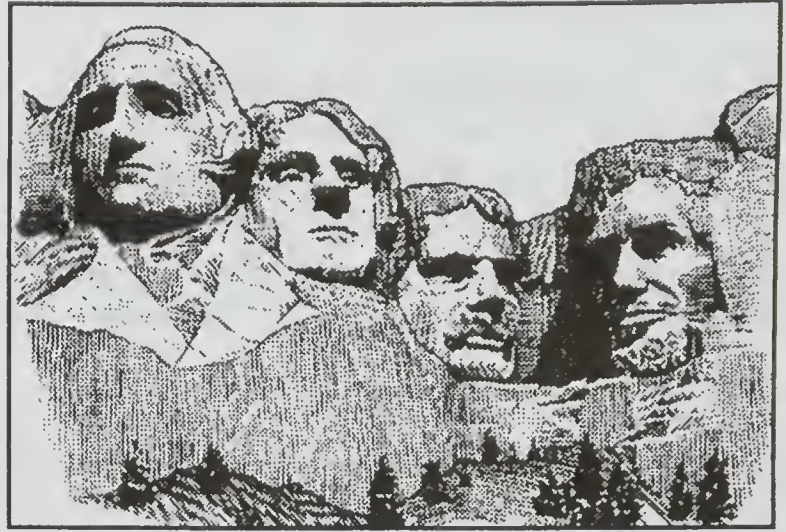
It is now a National Park and toll booths greet visitors at each end, and for a fee, you may drive thru their 22 mile scenic route.

A few hours were spent at the Crazy Horse Mountain. This carving is the largest such project in the world and films are shown at 15-minute intervals explaining its development.

The Rushmore National Memorial featuring Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt was crowded and much more tourist-oriented than we remembered. The 4 Presidents symbolize the birth and growing pains of a new nation. **Washington** guided a struggling new country. Everything he did set a precedent, including the creation of the cabinet system, census polls and a federal banking system. **Jefferson**, the primary author of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, determined the course this newly formed democratic government would take. He also secured the Louisiana Purchase adding to the Western half of our country. **Lincoln** had the moral integrity to stand for what was right in the face of great opposition. He extended freedom to all people at the cost of a devastating civil war and many lives, yet through this he was able to keep the union of American states intact. **Roosevelt** secured the Panama Canal, ushering in a new era of economic growth and increased American involvement and leadership in world affairs. Flags of all the states, district territories and commonwealths of the U.S. lead to the Grandview Terrace.

A 13-minute orientation film explained its development and the museum housed major exhibits on the carving, the presidents, the sculptor, workers and the history of the U.S. The gift shop that once offered quality items, now sold mostly inexpensive souvenirs.

Deadwood was a real disappointment. Years ago it was fun to wander around the old



western town, but now every building is filled with 1-armed Bandits. There weren't many casino customers considering it was the height of the tourist season. We donated all of 35¢ into the Bandits. Many locals don't like what the town has become, but feel the town would be dead if the casinos hadn't moved in. I wish now that I had bought one token from a Deadwood casino, because I know we'll never go back.

The little town of Rockerville **was** dead! We looked for a campground that we had stayed at many years before and was told about 5 years ago the businesses went bankrupt and all that remains is one restaurant/antique shop.

In our continued search for old tokens, we stopped at the Dakota Territory Trading Post in Custer. The Trading Post, constructed in 1882, experienced many uses -- a boot and shoe repair shop, cafe, museum, gift shop and finally a trading post.

We had no luck in finding any old tokens, but in rummaging through a box of letters from the 1900s, I found a very old, yellowed and barely readable, document on the life of Louis Bordeaux, born in 1848 near Fort Laramie, Wyoming, who became a trader and interpreter for the Sioux. With a little more

research, his story may someday be included in NOW News.

Custer also has an interesting history. It is the county seat of Custer County and a center for the mining and logging industries in the southern Black Hills. It has become a significant collection and distribution point for the surrounding hinterland.

The earliest human inhabitants of the area were Native Americans. Archaeological excavations carried out a few miles west of Custer in 1993, uncovered the oldest artifacts ever encountered in western South Dakota, dating human inhabitation back to as early as 10,000 to 12,000 years ago.

Historical exploration and settlement of the area waited until the 19th century. The creation of the Dakota Territory in 1861 paved the way for Post-Civil War Territorial expansion and railroad extension into the Great Plains. The Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 provided a large tract of land, including the Black Hills in southwestern Dakota Territory, to the indigenous Native Americans as a permanent reservation and hunting grounds.

During the summer of 1874, Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer led a 1000-man expedition out of Ft. Abraham Lincoln (on the Missouri River in what is now North Dakota) into the Black Hills region. The expedition's mission was to explore the area and to evaluate its resource base.

Custer's only permanent campsite during the Black Hills Expedition is located 3 miles east of Custer City along Hwy. 16A and French Creek. It was here that gold was first discovered in the Black Hills. During the 5 days the expedition camped at this site, a considerable quantity of gold was found and word of the discovery was soon "headlined"



General George Custer medal, struck in 1864 in proof-like white metal, with rubbing in the field. 35mm in diameter, contemporary and quite rare. Apparent restrikes exist of this medal.

It reads: *"The History of This War, When Truthfully Written will contain No Betweens Than That Upon Which Is Recorded The Chivalrous Deeds the Glorious Triumphs /Soldiers of the Third Division / Cedar Creek 19, Oct. 1864 G.A. Custer"*

far and wide. A major gold rush ensued immediately with the first party of miners arriving in the vicinity of Custer's campsite on French Creek less than 5 months after the expedition's departure. The "Gordon Party," as this first group of miners was known, built a stockade and spent the winter of 1874-75 at the site. In the spring of 1875, the party was expelled by the military as its presence in the Black Hills was in violation of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty with the Indians.

During the summer of 1875 the largest military force could not have held back the thousands of prospectors and adventurers who flooded the region. Custer City was plotted as a settlement at its present location on August 10, 1875. The population of Custer in 1876 is recorded to have been between 5,000 and 10,000 people. During that year, the largest gold strike was made about 55 miles north of Custer in the

northern Black Hills (the present site of the "Homestake Gold Mine," the largest gold mine in North America, having been in continuous production since 1876. With the gold discovery in the northern hills, Custer City was virtually abandoned and almost overnight the population fell to 14. By 1878, the population of Custer was only 57.

My husband's on-going search for quality hand-carved wooden Santas brought us to the National Museum of Woodcarving at Custer. The museum displayed thousands of life-like woodcarvings with marvelous detail and great humor which were brought to life by one of Disneyland's original animators.

Dr. Niblack spent over 70,000 hours creating a world of woodcarving wonder and magic and his talent was so highly regarded that 3 of his scenes were showcased at the Smithsonian Institute prior to finding a permanent home at the National Museum of Woodcarving. Various professional woodcarvers from the area have their talents on display and for sale at the museum.

These wooden nickels were used at the museum to activate...



...various wooden carving scenes created by Dr. Niblack

It was a nice trip and we squeezed a lot of touring into a week, but we were glad to get home again.

Something to Think About!

Source: Cox News Service

Why aren't the opening prayer in Congress and the motto "In God We Trust" on coins deemed contrary to the separation of church and state?

In 1983, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the practice of opening sessions of Congress with a prayer didn't violate the ban on establishment of religion expressed in the Constitution's First Amendment.

The court noted that the practice dated to the first Congress, the same Congress that adopted the First Amendment.

"The practice of opening legislative sessions with prayer has become part of the fabric of our society," the court stated. "To invoke divine guidance on a public body entrusted with making the laws is not, in these circumstances, a violation of the Establishment Clause; it is simply a tolerable acknowledgement of beliefs widely held among the people of this country."

"In God We Trust" is one of several inscriptions on coins mandated by Title 31, Section 324, of the U.S. Code. In the case of *Aronow vs U.S.* in 1970, the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals' decision upholding the slogan included this statement: "It is quite obvious that the national motto and the slogan on coin and currency *In God We Trust* has nothing whatsoever to do with the establishment of religion. Its use is of patriotic or ceremonial character and bears no true resemblance to a government sponsorship of a religious exercise."

Gimbel Brothers

A Milwaukee Legend

by Tom Casper #982

Although Milwaukee had a large German and Polish population as it was developing, many other cultures helped to shape the city as it grew. Milwaukee historian, John Gurda, recently chronicled in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, the impact of the Jewish culture in Milwaukee. He mentioned local names familiar to us -- Lizzie Kander, who wrote the Settlement Cookbook, now a collector's item at antique shows; Goldie Mabowehz, better known as Golda Meir, prime minister of Israel; Bud Selig, owner of the Brewers, Ben Barkin, long-time supporter of the Circus Parade.

One entrepreneur not mentioned in the article, who is featured on a Milwaukee token, is Adam Gimbel (1817-1896). He is listed as well as pictured on a bronze plaque in the 1963 book, *"Great Jewish Portraits in Metal,"* published by the Jewish Museum. He was born in Bavaria, Germany and died in Philadelphia, PA. During his life he made a stop in Milwaukee giving us a department store named after him.

He arrived in the U.S. in 1835 and after traveling around for 7 years, opened a general store in Vincennes, IN. He inspired his sons who opened a store in Danville, IL in the 1880's, which failed. In 1887 they moved to Milwaukee where they opened up the first truly modern department store. Five years later they opened a store in Philadelphia and later had stores in New York, Pittsburgh and Chicago. By 1930 Gimbel Brothers, Inc. had become the largest organization of its kind in the world.

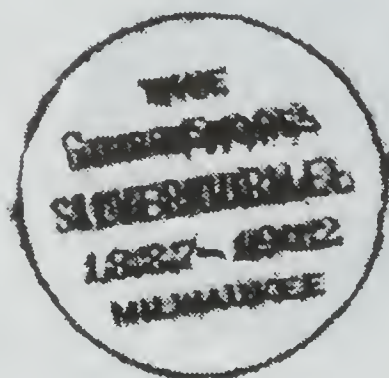
The Milwaukee store (as many of you may remember) was at 101 W. Wisconsin Avenue. It was the first Milwaukee store to install escalators in 1941 and was the first fully air-conditioned store in 1949.

I fondly remember the coin department in Gimbels. As a youngster, I remember buying a large size silver certificate and a three cent piece from the store.

It stayed in business until 1986 when it became Marshall Field & Co. Marshall Field had a short stay and closed in 1997. The building remains closed while developers ponder a new use for the building. Whether you remember Gimbel's coin department or seeing Gertie, the duck, in their display window for two days in 1945, Milwaukee was fortunate to have a Gimbels downtown, the principal shopping area before the invention of malls.

The Milwaukee medal shown here pictures on the obverse a bust of Adam Gimbel, *"Founder of the Gimbel Business"*.

Adam Gimbel Token
Milwaukee, Wis.



The reverse reads, *"The Gimbel Store's Silver Jubilee, 1887-1912, Milwaukee"*.

The token is aluminum and measures 32.5mm.

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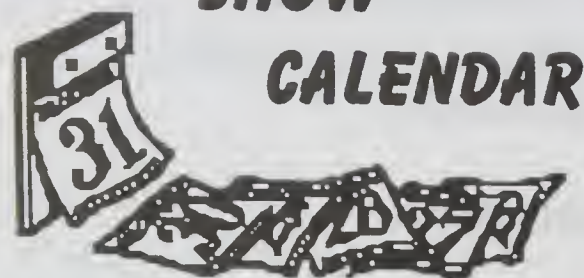
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Please send information on your upcoming coin show to Phyllis Calkins, NOW News Editor, P.O. Box 155, Mazomanie, WI 53560. Include name of club, location of show, dates, times, number of tables and your Show/Bourse Chairman's name, address & phone number.

September 7-9, 2000 - Central States

Fall convention at Ramada Inn Hotel, 17040 S. Halsted (Jct. of I and Rt. 1), Harvey, IL.
Hours: Thursday 4-8 pm; Fri. & Sat. 10-6 pm; Sun. 10-4 pm. 130 dealer tables. Contact Clayton Hageman, PO Box 141, Plano, IL 60545. Ph. 630-552-3491.

September 14-16, 2000 - Milwaukee

Milwaukee Numismatic Society's show at 4 Points Sheraton Hotel, 4747 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee. Admission \$1 (Juniors free). 94 dealers, exhibits.

September 24, 2000 - Rockford, IL

Rockford Area Coin Club's 88th Semi-annual Coin Show at Holiday Inn Hoffman House, 7550 E. State Street, Rockford, IL. 40 tables. Hours: 9-4 pm Bourse Chm. Larry Kasberger, 2419 Circle Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008. Ph. 815-547-6382.

October 21, 2000 - Sheboygan

Sheboygan Coin Club's Coin, Sportscard & Beanie Babies Show at Sheboygan Armory, 516 Broughton Dr., Sheboygan. 40 tables (20 coin/20 other). Chm. Ed Rautmann, 1652 Riverdale Ave., Sheboygan, WI 53081. Ph. 920-452-0054.

October 22, 2000 - Green Bay

Nicolet Coin Club's Fall Coin & Stamp Show at Rock Garden/Comfort Suites, 1951 Bond St., Green Bay. Hours: 9-4 pm. Chm. Roger Bohn, 1345 Ponderosa Ave., Green Bay, WI 54313. Ph. 920-499-7035.

October 22, 2000 - Oconomowoc

Cooney Numismatists & Philatelists, Ltd. 30th Collector's Show at the Oconomowoc Recreation Center, 324 W. Wisconsin Ave., Oconomowoc. Hours: 9-4 pm. 22 tables. Bourse Chm. Chris Dama, 162 Main Street #3, Oconomowoc, WI 53066.

October 29, 2000 - Gurnee, IL

Indian Hill Coin Show at the American Legion Post 771, Gurnee, IL. Contact Mike Hanninen, 2400 Horeb Ave. Zion, IL, 60099. Ph. 847-872-2725.

November 12, 2000 - Kenosha

Kenosha Coin Show at the Kenosha Union Club, 3030 39th Ave., Kenosha. Hours: 9-3 pm, 25 tables. Chm. Jerry Binsfeld, PO Box 580191, Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158. Ph. 414-654-6272 (h) or 414-843-2321 (w).

January 4-7, 2001 - Orlando, FL

FUN Show in Orlando, Florida

February 18, 2001 - Oshkosh

Numismatic Research Society's 18th annual coin show. Contact Numismatic Research Society, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54902.

March 18, 2001 - Waukesha

Waukessha Coin Club's 32nd annual show at the Waukesha Elks Lodge, 2301 Springdale Drive, (I-94 Exit Hwy. 18, west to Springdale Road, Right on Springdale 2 blocks) Waukesha. Hours: 9-4 p.m. Contact Forrest Schumacher, Waukesha Coin Club, P.O. Box 1122, Waukesha, WI 53187 or call 262-524-3227 (b) or 262-542-3934 (h).

March 25, 2001 - Madison

Madison Coin Club's annual show at the Sheraton Hotel, Madison, WI.

March 29-31, 2001 - Milwaukee

South Shore Coin Club's 37th annual show at Four Points Hotel Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 4747 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee. Hours: Thurs. 3-8 pm; Friday 10-6 pm; Sat. 10-4 pm. 100 dealers, \$1 donation for patrons over 12. Bourse Chair. Annette Tramte, Ph. 414-541-7028. Show Chm. Walter Weis, Ph. 414-384-7966.

March, 2001 - ANA

National Money Show at Salt Lake City, UT.

April 1, 2001 - NOW

41st NOW show hosted by Baraboo Coin Club at the Holiday Inn, Wisconsin Dells. Hours: 9-5 pm, 65 tables. Chm. Rick Kaga.

April 5-8, 2001 - Central States

Indianapolis, IN (April 5 PNG Day)

April 8, 2001 - Appleton

Fox Valley 46th Annual Spring Coin Show at Holiday Inn, Corner Hwy. 41 & West College Ave., Appleton. Hours: 9-4 pm. 40 tables. Bourse Chm. James Bayer, PO Box 1981, Appleton, WI 54912-1981. Ph. 920-739-1089.

May 6, 2001 - Wausau

Wisconsin Valley Coin Show at Midway Hotel, 2901 Martin Avenue, Wausau. Hours 9-5 pm, 50 tables. Show Chm. Thad Streeter, 5002 Tanya St., Schofield, WI 54476. Ph. 715-355-5437.

August 8-12, 2001 - ANA

World's Fair of Money at Atlanta, GA.

February 17, 2002 - Oshkosh

Numismatic Research Society's 19th annual coin show. Contact Numismatic Research Society, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54902.

March 8-10, 2002 - ANA

National Money Show at Jacksonville, FL

April 25-28, 2002 - Central States

Central States Coin Show hosted by Columbus Numismatic Society, Columbus, OH (Apr. 25 PNG Day).

May 6, 2001 - Wausau

Wisconsin Valley Coin Show at Midway Hotel, 2901 Martin Ave., Wausau, WI. Hours: 9-5 p.m. Contact Thad Streeter, 5002 Tanya St., Schofield, WI 54476. Ph. 715-355-5437.

July 31-August 4, 2002 - ANA

World's Fair of Money at New York City, NY.

February 16, 2003 - Oshkosh

Numismatic Research Society's 20th annual coin show. Contact Numismatic Research Society, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54902.

July 30-August 3, 2003 - ANA

World's Fair of Money at Baltimore, MD.

February 15, 2004 - Oshkosh

Numismatic Research Society's 21st annual coin show. Contact Numismatic Research Society, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54902.

March 2004 - ANA

National Money Show at Portland, OR.

August 2004 - ANA

World's Fair Show at Denver, CO

February 20, 2005 - Oshkosh

Numismatic Reserach Society's 22nd annual show. Contact Numismatic Research Society, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, Wi 54902.

August 2005 - ANA

World's Fair of Money at Pittsburg, PA.

August 2-6, 2006 - ANA

World's Fair of Money at Milwaukee, WI.

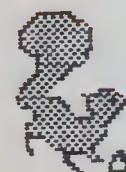
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